

65. (new) The process of claim 1 wherein the overmolding shape comprises an externally threaded engaging surface region at the base of the mandrel and a tube contacting region adjacent thereto.

66. (new) The process of claim 1 wherein the first and second polymers are polyethylene and each is independently crosslinked to an initial degree and wherein the step of crosslinking independently increases the degree of crosslinking of each polymer to a higher final amount.

67. (new) The process of claim 66 wherein the initial degree of crosslinking of each of the first and second polymers is in the range of from about 35% to about 50% and the final degree of crosslinking of each of the first and second polymers is greater than or equal to about 50%.

68. (new) The process of claim 63 wherein the sealing surface region is selected from the group consisting of a cup-shaped void and a radiused void; and wherein the tube contacting region is an essentially tubular void.

69. (new) The process of claim 68 wherein the tube further comprises an annular shelf interposed between the sealing surface region and the tube contacting region.

70. (new) The process of claim 64 wherein the internally threaded engaging surface region is an internally threaded annular void; and wherein the tube contacting region is an essentially tubular void.

71. (new) The process of claim 70 wherein the tube further comprises an n-sided shelf interposed between the internally threaded engaging surface region and the tube contacting region and wherein n is an integer value greater than or equal to 4.

72. (new) The process of claim 65 wherein the externally threaded engaging surface region is a threaded annular void; and wherein the tube contacting region is an essentially tubular void.

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~~73~~. (new) The process of claim ¹¹~~72~~ wherein the tube further comprises an n-sided shelf interposed between the externally threaded engaging surface region and the tube contacting region and wherein n is an integer value greater than or equal to 4.

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~~74~~. (new) The process of claim 1 wherein the tube further comprises a mesh overbraid applied prior to the injection molding step.

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~~75~~. (new) The process of claim ²~~65~~ which further comprises the step of inserting a nut onto the tube after the step of injection molding.

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~~76~~. (new) The process of claim ²~~63~~ which further comprises the step of molding a retaining ring onto the first polymer tube by heating a portion of the tube posterior to the nut and compressing at least one end of the tube along a longitudinal axis of the tube, a mandrel having been inserted into the tube prior to the step of compressing.

REMARKS

This case is a divisional of a parent application filed as Ser. No. 08/827,305 on 28 March 1997.

The parent case contained Claims 1-62 as originally filed. Of those claims initially filed, an election was made to prosecute the product claims (Claims 31-46 and 56-62) in the parent application. This application is intended to prosecute the process claims which were non-elected in the parent application. Of the claims, Claim 1 from the parent case is retained and is amended to give a generic claim to prior claims 1, 22 and 47 in the parent case. New Claims 63-65 provide the species embodiments of Claims 1, 22 and 47, respectively, in dependent form. New Claim 66 provides the limitation formerly found in Claim 2 of the parent case. New Claim 67 provides limitations very similar to those of Claims 3-5 in the parent case. New Claims 68 and 69 correspond to Claims 7 and 8. New Claims 70 and 71 correspond to Claims 28 and 29. New Claims 72 and 73 correspond to Claims 53 and 54. New Claim 74 provides a limitation found in Claim 9. New Claims 75 and 76 provide the same limitations found in Claims 10 and 11 of the parent case.

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